

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

Mud baths were common among the ancients, the mud on the seashore and the slime of rivers being especially prized for this purpose. The Tatars and Egyptians still use them in certain diseases. They are taken by people at many places on the coast of Europe, among which may be named Driburg, Elsen, Neundorf, Pymont, Spa, Marienbad, Franzensbrunn, Eger, Kissingen and Trenzitz.

Tolstoi, writing in the Russian Gazette, says it would be impossible for him to describe the real situation of the people in the famine district. Famine again threatens the district in which he lives. The rice harvest has been very poor, and oats have entirely failed. There is a complete dearth of firing, and, added to this, the people have used up their last reserve of strength in the miseries they endured last winter.

Western Australia with its enormous territory does not supply enough cattle and sheep to feed its population. This land is remarkable for its immense areas of arid sand upon which the only green thing that flourishes is the inevitable gumtree. Of grass there is almost none, and even the kangaroos are half starved. The non-arrival of a cargo of live stock steamer from South Australia is sometimes a serious matter in the more western colony.

The Royal Humane society has awarded its silver medal to Boatwain M'Dermott for an extraordinary feat of bravery. Two sailors of the war ship Swallow were in the sea off Zanzibar, when a shark appeared. M'Dermott, who remained in the boat, was clever enough to leap from the boat square on the shark's back just as the latter came alongside for his prey. The fish was frightened off for time enough to pull all three men aboard the boat.

The sultan of Turkey has made a vigorous break through the trammels of national tradition, and has given an order that Turkey shall take a place in the march of civilization. He has granted concessions for the construction of long railways which will open up his territory to the east, the north and the south, all having their termini at Constantinople. One is to extend to Damascus, and another, the Tigris & Euphrates railway, to the Persian gulf. The concessions have been granted to German and Belgian firms, English firms being excluded.

Efforts are being made to establish a trade for South African tomatoes and potatoes in London. Tomatoes were needed in the London market during January, February and March, and potatoes during February, March and April, and the demand for the latter has grown in red soil where possible. The London vegetable dealers are prepared to pay from one and one-half to two cents per pound for tomatoes, which would pay the farmers, one of whom guarantees to supply from eighty to one hundred tons of the Acme and Perfection varieties.

Out of a population of 30,000,000 in Prussia only 2,435,628 persons possess an income of over 900 marks a year, which is equal to about \$325. This fact is shown by the first year's results of the new income tax in Prussia. Two million one hundred and eighty thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine pay income tax on the lowest scale—that is, an income of between 900 and 3,000 marks. Only 10,698 persons have incomes of over 30,000 marks, or about \$7,000 a year. The highest income declared is 6,760,000 marks, and the locality where it was registered the person is supposed to be Krupp, the gun-maker of Essen.

SOUTH SEA ARMOR.

Costs of Mail Made of Cocoon Fiber and Human Hair.

The academy of sciences has added to the treasures of the museum a complete suit of ancient armor from the Gilbert islands. Also some odd pieces of warlike paraphernalia, such as spears, shields and spears. All of these articles are believed to be at least one hundred years old. The coat of mail and helmet, all in one piece, looks when off the wearer like a big wicker chair. When on, the back of the chair apparently rises above the wearer's head, and passes up through the seat of the chair. The low arms, which are really straps, pass over his shoulders. The solid portion of the lower part is the corselet, fastening around the body. This curious garment is made of cocoon fiber, twisted around and around over thick cords, making a dense fabric stiff and stout as board. In color it resembles unbleached linen. The material is woven by hand, after which it is embroidered in regular pattern suggesting grotesque human figures. This curious necklace is executed with cords made of twisted human hair.

With the singular garment just described are worn a yoke and a pair of sleeves, also in one piece. Also, a pair of leggings with a short skirt at the top. The skirt, leggings, sleeves and yoke are made of brown cocoon fiber, braided and knotted, until it looks very much like the common cocoa matting. The thickness of these garments is something surprising. It would seem that arrows or spears could not penetrate this fabric. The coat of mail keeps all portions of the costume in place. The chair-like projection above the head is intended to ward off arrows.

The work of making this costume must have been incredibly tedious, judging by the fineness and regularity of twist, stitch, strand and mesh. No doubt this outfit of a heathen warrior, represents the labor of years and the slavery of women. Possibly, carnage in addition, as the hair used may have been taken from slain captives.

With the suit of armor are two spears, one cleaver, and a long, pointed dagger. They are long, pointed sticks of cocoon wood, armed with shark's teeth. The teeth are polished until they are smooth and white as ivory. Each tooth is knotted to the wood by a cord made of cocoon fiber, passing through a hole drilled in the tooth and another drilled in the wood. The shorter spear has ninety-eight teeth, the longer one one hundred.

About the middle of each stick a curious piece of skin is fastened to the wood. This skin is as thick as the stoutest leather and covered with sharp, white tooth-like projections. No one connected with the academy knows what the skin is, as nothing like it has ever been seen here before. The exhibit is accompanied by a broad, curving band of the same skin, but whether it is intended as an armor plate or not nobody seems to know.

DOMESTIC CONCERNS.

Fried Oatmeal: Slice cold oatmeal mush rather thin. Have ready a frying pan containing a little hot lard or drippings, and brown the slices on both sides. Serve hot with powdered sugar, or maple syrup. Cornmeal mush is very nice fried in the same way, especially if the granulated meal is used in preparing the mush.—Housekeeper.

Cauliflower: Pick off the outer leaves, wash well, and put to soak in cold water for one hour; stand in a kettle of boiling water with the stem downward, and a teaspoonful of salt, cover the kettle, and boil half an hour. When done, lift carefully from the water, stand the cauliflower in a shallow dish, and pour cream sauce over.—Harper's Bazar.

Elegant Pudding: Cut thin slices of light white bread and line a pudding-dish with them, putting in alternate layers of bread and orange marmalade (or any other kind of marmalade), till the mold is nicely full. Pour over all a pint of warm milk, in which four well-beaten eggs have been mixed. Cover the mold with a cloth and boil for an hour and a half. Serve with sauce.—Detroit Free Press.

Bolled Candy: For a real out and out frolic there is nothing like the old-fashioned pulled taffy. Put one cup of sugar, two of molasses and a tablespoonful each of butter and glycerine in a porcelain saucepan and boil fast twenty-five minutes, and then drop in cold water, and if it becomes brittle remove at once from the fire, stir in half a teaspoonful of cream of tartar and pour into buttered pans. When half cool butter your hands, and pull the mass into sticks.—American Agriculturist.

Peanut Candy: If you want an inexpensive nut candy this may prove satisfactory. Take a pint of molasses, four quarts of peanuts (measured before they are shelled), two tablespoonfuls of vanilla, one teaspoonful of soda. Boil the molasses until it hardens in cold water, stir in the vanilla, then the soda (this should be put in dry, but see that the lumps are smoothed out first) and lastly the shelled peanuts. Turn the candy out on shallow, buttered pans and smooth the top over with a wooden spoon so that it will be level. This is a harmless candy, and one that our children relish.—Prairie Farmer.

Crab Gumbo: This is a favorite New Orleans soup, and follows the rule for chicken gumbo, substituting crabs for chicken. Twelve good-sized crabs will be required, a large spoonful of butter and a minced onion fried in it, half a pint of cold water, and one drop of cold water, stir in the vanilla, then the soda (this should be put in dry, but see that the lumps are smoothed out first) and lastly the shelled peanuts. Turn the candy out on shallow, buttered pans and smooth the top over with a wooden spoon so that it will be level. This is a harmless candy, and one that our children relish.—Prairie Farmer.

After sentinels had been placed on duty they betook themselves to slumber. In the night the whole band was roused by the screams and yells of the terrified sentinels, and the surrounding country was lit up by a bright glare emanating from the mountain side. They fled without even gathering up their camp equipment. Many months after this event Quanaq gathered his tribe together and went back to investigate. As they approached the spot it required all their courage to induce them to proceed near enough to discover the cause of their fright.

The first smoke issuing from the side of the mountain. They imagined it to be the abode of the evil spirit, and approached it cautiously at first, but becoming emboldened as they proceeded to length found themselves near enough to touch a rock into it. From this they went to work carrying stones as large as they could lift and threw them into its mouth with the purpose of filling it up. After some time they found no headway was gained by such proceedings and they abandoned the attempt.

The vent is oval-shaped and is three feet long and twenty inches wide. Smoke issues from it continually, and at long and irregular intervals it sends forth a bluish-colored blaze, as if from a burning mine. There are known to be extensive coal beds in that country, but even if it could have been taken from some distant agency it does not seem possible for it to have smoldered for so long a period. It is therefore decided to be a miniature volcano.—Galveston News.

CIPHER TYPEWRITING.

How the Machine May Be Easily Adapted for Secret Correspondence.

A correspondent of Le Genie Civil makes a curious suggestion in regard to the possible uses of the typewriter in cipher writing. It is well known that a favorite form of secret correspondence is by means of the substitution of certain letters for others, each party having the key by which he can replace the substituted ones by those intended to be read. The ordinary typewriter can readily be used for cipher writing by simply transposing the type on the type bars, so that, for example, the touching of the key marked A will print C, B will print R, and so on.

After one instrument has been transposed the other is to be correspondingly re-arranged, so that the key will print A, the key B will print R, and so on. Then X, the correspondent at one end of the line, on receiving a cipher dispatch from the other, Y, has only to copy it on his typewriter. The machine, retransposing the letters automatically, will at once give an accurate translation, while X's reply, written on the same typewriter, which translated Y's original dispatch, will form an unintelligible string of letters, which, by copying on Y's typewriter, will be in its turn translated. The advantages of a cipher correspondence of this kind are that the parties use different, although reciprocal, ciphers, and a comparison of dispatches captured from each will give little clue to the meaning of either. Moreover, it would not be very difficult with some typewriters which have two space keys to make the space keys operate on type so that the documents would be an uninterrupted string of letters. Such writing is very difficult to decipher, from the impossibility of telling where the words begin or end; yet the corresponding instrument, by mere copying, would translate it perfectly.—Chicago Tribune.

A THUNDER STORM.

All Nature Let Loose in Her Fury Among the Andes.

"The people of this country do not know what a thunder storm is," asserted Juan Segares, a native of Peru. "You go to the mountains of the tropics if you want to see the bolts of Olympian Jove and hear his thunder roll."

"There is no sight on earth so grand as a midnight thunder storm in the Andes. Byron describes a night storm in the Alps, and it appears inexpressibly grand to those who have never felt the solid earth rock beneath the terrific electric discharges and seen the tormented bolts rending the peaks from mountain peaks and send them crashing down into well-nigh bottomless chasms. "I spent a night in the Andes in the summer of '88. Our party was encamped in a basin, walled in by three snow-capped peaks. Shortly after midnight a sudden thunder storm came up, and those three peaks seemed to be encircled with fiery blue serpents, that coiled and flamed and darted their fiery tongues across the triangular space at each other for an hour, while the peals of thunder followed in such quick succession that it seemed one continual crash—an end as endless as the sea."

"Bowdler larger than any building ever erected by man were torn from the crags and hurled into the valleys, while the rain came down like a second deluge, swelling in a few minutes every tiny rivulet to torrents that roared like Niagara. The storm ceased as suddenly as it began, the torrents disappeared, the stars shone out and a silence like the grave succeeded the awful pandemonium."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A piano-tuner who would admit that any other piano-tuner ever did a good job would be a curiosity worth taking a good look at.—N. Y. World.

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